improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality as per the water qulity monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions of the country. A total sewage treatment capacity of 1759 mld. (million litres per day) has been created so far for Ganga and its tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. As regards Yamuna, the quality of river water has not shown the desired improvement owning to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity particularly in Delhi, and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river. Due to continuous increase in the population of the towns located along the banks of the rivers resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.

Preliminary meetings have been held for discussing the revamping of the National River Conservation programme with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers under NRCP are continuous process aimed towards ameliorating the water quality in rivers.

Release of forest land

2671. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for release of 427.13 hectare of forest land coming under the submergence and environment clearance from the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal for diversion of 427.13 hectare of forest land for Sidumbar Reservoir Irrigation Project in Valsad district of Gujarat for which in-principle (stage-I) approval was accorded by the Central Government on 20.08.2004 with certain mandatory conditions. The Final (stage-II) approval is accorded only after the receipt of the compliance report from the Government of Gujarat, which is still awaited.

Pollution in Yamuna

2672. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an interceptor and diversion scheme has been cleared with a view to cleanse Yamuna of its pollution;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including details of expenditure, the level of cleanliness likely to be achieved and the amount already spent so far and the results achieved;

(c) the manner in which the current scheme is different from the ones implemented in the past; and

(d) whether there is any similar scheme for rest of the rivers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) According to the information provided by the